

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Truex, Vice-Mayor Luis, Councilmembers Caletka, Crowley and Starkey. Also present were Town Administrator Shimun, Town Attorney Rayson, and Town Clerk Muniz recording the meeting.

Budget & Finance Director William Ackerman described economic challenges the State and Town were facing, including the housing slump, construction slowdown, gasoline price increase, unemployment increase, credit tightening and population decrease. He advised that the estimated revenue at the State level for 2009 was now \$6 billion or 22% less than original estimates in October 2006. Sales taxes were projected to come down in 2009 as well. Mr. Ackerman summarized the components of the proposed fiscal year 2009 budget: millage rate: 4.2456, residential fire assessment: \$104, and reorganization.

Mr. Ackerman described changes made to the budget since the last workshop. The Community Endowment had been increased by \$2,000 for a donation to Broward Homebound Program and explained that the Endowment had sent a request in April, but the Town had never received the letter. The fire assessment had been reduced from \$120 to \$104. Other changes included reducing the number of Fire personnel, removing some consultant services, and reducing travel and training budgets for some departments.

Mr. Ackerman stated that in a ranking of nearby municipalities, Davie's millage rate was in the lower third. He remarked that Davie's fire assessment was also in the lower third when comparing neighboring communities. Mr. Ackerman explained that the assessment provided \$6 million of the \$14.5 million budgeted to the Fire services, so the General Fund subsidized the rest.

Mr. Ackerman stated that the General Fund for 2009 would decrease by approximately \$4.5 million from 2008. He said they were able to balance this budget by eliminating unfilled positions but cautioned they would not be able to do this next year.

Impacts due to the cuts they had made included:

- increased response time for maintenance issues
- reduction of lawn and right-of-way maintenance
- reduction of neighborhood revitalization programs
- inability to complete some specially requested services
- delay of the Regional Activity Center and the Traffic Oriented Corridor
- closing of Pine Island Park and Betty Booth Roberts Park pools on Sundays
- cutting some holiday parties and recreation programs

Mr. Ackerman stated that over 70% of the budget impacted public safety and public works. He presented a chart depicting where the additional revenue had gone in the past few years when property tax income was high, and pointed out that most had been dedicated to public safety.

- Mr. Ackerman summarized potential budget issues for 2010:
- \$500,000 for salaries for 10 employees they would hire in 2009
- \$1.5 million increase in police contract
- \$2.5 million increase in fire and general employees contract

Mr. Ackerman said these increases, accompanied by a decrease in ad valorem and state revenue, would make for a "pretty tight year for fiscal year 2010."

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Mayor Truex announced that the Town's proposed 2009 millage rate was 4.2456, 2.91% less than the 4.3729 rolled back rate. The proposed voter debt service millage rate for 2009 was .7075.

Mayor Truex opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Judy Paul remembered five years ago she had proposed a plan with the insurance reserve fund that allowed the Town to save \$1 million. She had discussed this with Mr. Shimun, who informed her that he was already implementing this concept.

Barbara Tilley said there were two things in the budget about which she was unhappy: the reduction in Public Works and the loss of the bus to the senior program at Pine Island.

Karen Stenzel-Nowicki was troubled that Council had only agreed to a \$5,000 donation to Adopt-A-Hurricane Family. She described the work they had already done in the community and reminded Council that with the recent mobile park closing, there were 940 families who would need to be relocated in the near future. Ms. Stenzel-Nowicki asked Council to reconsider the donation request.

As no one else spoke, Mayor Truex closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Councilmember Crowley wanted to donate \$1,000 to the Broward Homebound Program, since this was what had been donated in the past. He had not supported a larger donation to Adopt-A-Hurricane Family, but in light of the recent Palma Nova closings, Councilmember Crowley wanted to reconsider their original \$30,000 request.

Housing & Community Development Director Shirley Taylor-Prakelt explained that the Town had a contractual agreement with Adopt-A-Hurricane Family using Disaster Recovery Initiative funds from Hurricane Wilma. The organization performed intake, referrals, case management, bidding and mobile home installation. The mobile homes were provided by FEMA and because the Town had this private, not-for-profit partner accepting title on the Town's behalf, they had received the \$50,000 fully furnished mobile homes for \$500 each. Ms. Taylor-Prakelt stated they had done an outstanding job.

Ms. Taylor-Prakelt advised that the organization had performed to FEMA's satisfaction and proven to the State Emergency Response Team Broward County that they had the ability to find affordable housing where none existed.

Councilmember Crowley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Starkey, to increase the \$5,000 to \$20,000. Councilmembers all agreed.

Councilmember Crowley made a motion, seconded by Vice-Mayor Luis, to donate \$1,000 to the Broward Homebound Program. Mayor Truex suggested \$2,000. Councilmember Crowley amended his motion to \$2,000. Councilmember Starkey seconded the motion. Councilmembers agreed.

Councilmember Crowley asked Mr. Shimun if the Housing & Community Development Department was staffed and funded sufficiently to handle the needs of the Palma Nova residents. Mr. Shimun responded that the Town's job was "just to make sure that they do what they're supposed to do" and the Town had sufficient staff to accommodate this.

#### *Resolution*

1. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE  
R-2008-193 TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED FOR VOTER APPROVED DEBT  
SERVICE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

Councilmember Crowley made a motion, seconded by Vice-Mayor Luis, to approve the millage rate.

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Mr. Ackerman clarified that this was for the voter debt service. Councilmember Crowley said he understood this when he made his motion.

In a roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Mayor Truex - yes; Vice-Mayor Luis - yes; Councilmember Caletka - yes; Councilmember Crowley - yes; Councilmember Starkey - yes. (Motion carried 5-0)

*Ordinance - First Reading (Second and Final Reading to be held September 17, 2008)*

2. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

Councilmember Crowley made a motion, seconded by Vice-Mayor Luis, to approve the proposed millage rate.

Councilmember Caletka felt Council was doing the right thing keeping the fire assessment low, so he would vote to approve the millage rate.

Councilmember Starkey felt that the rate was too low compared to other municipalities and did not think general funds should be used for the Fire or Police Department; therefore, she did not support the proposed millage rate.

Fire Chief Joe Montopoli explained to Vice-Mayor Luis that they were reducing Fire Department staff by nine, which returned the department to the 2002-2003 staffing levels. Vice-Mayor Luis asked how many additional personnel could be hired if the fire assessment was increased by \$16. Mr. Ackerman responded that the increase would allow six or seven additional firefighters to be hired. Councilmember Starkey pointed out that this would be less money they would need to take out of the general fund.

Councilmember Caletka explained that he favored increasing the millage instead of the fire assessment because the fire assessment was the same for all residences, and the impact of a higher assessment was greater on lower-income families. The millage rate was based on a home's value, so residents with more expensive homes paid more.

Councilmember Crowley noted that there were currently no plans to have a new station built within the next year, and this was why they had rolled back the Fire Department personnel.

In a roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Mayor Truex - no; Vice-Mayor Luis - yes; Councilmember Caletka - yes; Councilmember Crowley - yes; Councilmember Starkey - no. (Motion carried 3-2)

*Ordinance - First Reading (Second and Final Reading to be held September 17, 2008)*

3. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF DAVIE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009.

Mr. Ackerman advised Council to indicate that the donation to Adopt-A-Hurricane Family would increase from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

Vice-Mayor Luis made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Crowley, to approve with the change described by Mr. Ackerman.

Mr. Shimun confirmed for Councilmember Crowley that this budget did not include any layoffs.

Councilmember Starkey stated that she could not support the budget because all of the departments had been asked to make sacrifices and she felt Mr. Shimun should lead by example and take a reduction in salary, but he had not been receptive to this idea. Councilmember Starkey was also concerned about some of the reorganization.

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Councilmember Caletka did not agree that Mr. Shimun should volunteer for a pay cut since this was not occurring among all employees. Vice-Mayor Luis agreed.

Mayor Truex said he did not agree with everything in the budget, but he believed there must be some give and take and he would support it.

In a roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Mayor Truex - yes; Vice-Mayor Luis - yes; Councilmember Caletka - yes; Councilmember Crowley - yes; Councilmember Starkey - no. (Motion carried 4-1)

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk